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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY PRITCHARD ANNOUNCES START OF
\$2.5M SCUSSET BEACH STATE RESERVATION RENOVATION

Local Partners, State Officials, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Join in Groundbreaking

SANDWICH: Massachusetts Environmental Affairs Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) State Parks and Recreation Director Priscilla Geigis joined State Senator Therese Murray, State Representatives Jeffrey Perry and Susan Gifford and officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to break ground today on the first phase of the \$2.5 million Scusset Beach State Reservation Renovation Project.

Today's celebration marked the start of the multi-phase rehabilitation project. Phase 1 will feature the renovation and conversion of the Fish Pier Building into a new park headquarters with administrative offices, interpretive space, meeting rooms, public bathrooms and accessible pathways. This initial phase is being financed by \$700,000 of State Supplemental Budget funds.

"I am very pleased to be officially getting this renovation project underway at Scusset Beach State Reservation," said Secretary Pritchard. "This 'Fix-It-First' project will greatly enhance and modernize the recreation and park facilities here, and will provide improved access and recreational opportunities for visitors – all critical improvements that keep us on the path towards a world-class parks system in Massachusetts."

The 381-acre Scusset Beach State Reservation, which is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was first leased to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1954. The facility, which is managed by DCR, includes a popular day-use ocean beach area, a 103-site campground and a popular fishing pier along the Cape Cod Canal. The state reservation attracted nearly 560,000 visitors last year.

"The Department of Conservation and Recreation is proud of its long-term partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Scusset Beach State Reservation," said Director Geigis. "This Comprehensive Plan was developed in cooperation with the Corps and highly-qualified consultants with the long-term goal of unifying the three distinct areas of the facility and improving recreation opportunities for visitors."

“I am pleased that these improvements have the public in mind. These facilities at Scusset Beach will be a great asset for Bourne and Sandwich residents and visitors alike,” said Senator Therese Murray, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “Beaches like Scusset are what make living or vacationing on Cape Cod unique. They are part of our lives, and any improvements will just enhance the Cape Cod beach experience.”

Future phases of the \$2.5 million renovation project will include expansion of the popular campground facilities, new benches, improved gathering spaces, landscaping, an accessible playground, a picnic area and group pavilion and several other shade structures around the fish pier area. The area along the canal and surrounding the fish pier are very popular with pedestrians and bicyclists and it has been DCR’s intention to make the entire reservation more friendly to these users. Other enhancements will involve ecological restoration and habitat preservation.

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